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CV 17- 00206

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

-----X
MARIA BEATRIZ CONDO, individually and on behalf of all
others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

-against-

CARIO, INC. d/b/a MAMA'S EMPANADAS, CASO, INC. d/b/a
MAMA'S EMPANADAS, LAVIANA, INC. d/b/a MAMA'S
EMPANADAS, and JAVIER GARCIA, as an individual,

Defendants.
-----X

FILED
IN CLERK'S OFFICE
U.S. DISTRICT COURT E.D.N.Y.
★ JAN 12 2017 ★

BROOKLYN OFFICE

**COLLECTIVE ACTION
COMPLAINT**

JURY TRIAL
DEMANDED

**VITALIANO, J.
MANN, M.J.**

1. Plaintiff, **MARIA BEATRIZ CONDO, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated**, (hereinafter referred to as "Plaintiff"), by her attorneys at Helen F. Dalton & Associates, P.C., alleges, upon personal knowledge as to herself and upon information and belief as to other matters, as follows:

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

2. Plaintiff, **MARIA BEATRIZ CONDO, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated**, through undersigned counsel, brings this action against **CARIO, INC. d/b/a MAMA'S EMPANADAS, CASO, INC. d/b/a MAMA'S EMPANADAS, LAVIANA, INC. d/b/a MAMA'S EMPANADAS, and JAVIER GARCIA, as an individual**, (hereinafter referred to as "Defendants"), to recover damages for egregious violations of state and federal wage and hour laws arising out of Plaintiffs' employment at the following MAMA'S EMPANADAS locations: 85-05 Northern Boulevard, Jackson Heights, New York 11372; 32-41 Steinway Street, Astoria, New York 11103; and 42-18 Greenpoint Avenue, Sunnyside, New York 11104.

3. As a result of the violations of Federal and New York State labor laws delineated below, Plaintiff seeks compensatory damages and liquidated damages in an amount exceeding \$100,000.00. Plaintiff also seeks interest, attorneys' fees, costs, and all other legal and equitable remedies this Court deems appropriate.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

4. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over Plaintiffs' federal claims pursuant to the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. §216 and 28 U.S.C. §1331.
5. This Court has supplemental jurisdiction over Plaintiffs' state law claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1367.
6. Venue is proper in the EASTERN District of New York pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1391(b) because a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claims occurred in this district.
7. This Court is empowered to issue a declaratory judgment pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§2201 & 2202.

THE PARTIES

8. Plaintiff MARIA BEATRIZ CONDO residing at 91-16 43rd Avenue, Elmhurst, New York 11368, was employed from in or around 2004 until in or around July 2016 by Defendants at the following MAMA'S EMPANADAS locations: 85-05 Northern Boulevard, Jackson Heights, New York 11372; 32-41 Steinway Street, Astoria, New York 11103; and 42-18 Greenpoint Avenue, Sunnyside, New York 11104.
9. Upon information and belief, Defendant, CARIO, INC. d/b/a MAMA'S EMPANADAS is a corporation organized under the laws of New York with a principal executive office at 85-05 Northern Boulevard, Jackson Heights, New York 11372.
10. Upon information and belief, Defendant, CARIO, INC. d/b/a MAMA'S EMPANADAS is a corporation authorized to do business under the laws of New York.
11. Upon information and belief, Defendant JAVIER GARCIA owns and/or operates CARIO, INC. D/B/A MAMA'S EMPANADAS,

12. Upon information and belief, Defendant JAVIER GARCIA is the Chairman of the Board of CARIO, INC. D/B/A MAMA'S EMPANADAS,
13. Upon information and belief, Defendant JAVIER GARCIA is the Chief Executive Officer of CARIO, INC. D/B/A MAMA'S EMPANADAS,
14. Upon information and belief, Defendant JAVIER GARCIA is an agent of CARIO, INC. D/B/A MAMA'S EMPANADAS,
15. Upon information and belief, Defendant JAVIER GARCIA has power over personnel decisions at CARIO, INC. D/B/A MAMA'S EMPANADAS,
16. Upon information and belief, Defendant JAVIER GARCIA has power over payroll decisions at CARIO, INC. D/B/A MAMA'S EMPANADAS,
17. Defendant JAVIER GARCIA has the power to hire and fire employees at CARIO, INC. D/B/A MAMA'S EMPANADAS, establish and pay their wages, set their work schedule, and maintains their employment records.
18. Upon information and belief, Defendant, CASO, INC. d/b/a MAMA'S EMPANADAS is a corporation organized under the laws of New York with a principal executive office at 32-41 Steinway Street, Astoria, New York 11103.
19. Upon information and belief, Defendant, CASO, INC. d/b/a MAMA'S EMPANADAS is a corporation authorized to do business under the laws of New York.
20. Upon information and belief, Defendant JAVIER GARCIA owns and/or operates CASO, INC. D/B/A MAMA'S EMPANADAS,
21. Upon information and belief, Defendant JAVIER GARCIA is the Chairman of the Board of CASO, INC. D/B/A MAMA'S EMPANADAS,
22. Upon information and belief, Defendant JAVIER GARCIA is the Chief Executive Officer of CASO, INC. D/B/A MAMA'S EMPANADAS,
23. Upon information and belief, Defendant JAVIER GARCIA is an agent of CASO, INC. D/B/A MAMA'S EMPANADAS,
24. Upon information and belief, Defendant JAVIER GARCIA has power over personnel decisions at CASO, INC. D/B/A MAMA'S EMPANADAS,
25. Upon information and belief, Defendant JAVIER GARCIA has power over payroll decisions at CASO, INC. D/B/A MAMA'S EMPANADAS,

26. Defendant JAVIER GARCIA has the power to hire and fire employees at CASO, INC. D/B/A MAMA'S EMPANADAS, establish and pay their wages, set their work schedule, and maintains their employment records.
27. Upon information and belief, Defendant, LAVIANA, INC. d/b/a MAMA'S EMPANADAS is a corporation organized under the laws of New York with a principal executive office at 42-18 Greenpoint Avenue, Sunnyside, New York 11104.
28. Upon information and belief, Defendant, LAVIANA, INC. d/b/a MAMA'S EMPANADAS is a corporation authorized to do business under the laws of New York.
29. Upon information and belief, Defendant JAVIER GARCIA owns and/or operates LAVIANA, INC. D/B/A MAMA'S EMPANADAS,
30. Upon information and belief, Defendant JAVIER GARCIA is the Chairman of the Board of LAVIANA, INC. D/B/A MAMA'S EMPANADAS,
31. Upon information and belief, Defendant JAVIER GARCIA is the Chief Executive Officer of LAVIANA, INC. D/B/A MAMA'S EMPANADAS,
32. Upon information and belief, Defendant JAVIER GARCIA is an agent of LAVIANA, INC. D/B/A MAMA'S EMPANADAS,
33. Upon information and belief, Defendant JAVIER GARCIA has power over personnel decisions at LAVIANA, INC. D/B/A MAMA'S EMPANADAS,
34. Upon information and belief, Defendant JAVIER GARCIA has power over payroll decisions at LAVIANA, INC. D/B/A MAMA'S EMPANADAS,
35. Defendant JAVIER GARCIA has the power to hire and fire employees at LAVIANA, INC. D/B/A MAMA'S EMPANADAS, establish and pay their wages, set their work schedule, and maintains their employment records.
36. During all relevant times herein, Defendant JAVIER GARCIA was Plaintiff's employer within the meaning of the FLSA and NYLL.
37. On information and belief, CARIO, INC. D/B/A MAMA'S EMPANADAS is, at present and has been at all times relevant to the allegation in the complaint, an enterprise engaged in interstate commerce within the meaning of the FLSA in that the entity (i) has had employees engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce, and handle, sell or otherwise work on goods or material that have been

moved in or produced for commerce by any person: and (ii) has had an annual gross volume of sales of not less than \$500,000.00.

38. On information and belief, CASO, INC. D/B/A MAMA'S EMPANADAS is, at present and has been at all times relevant to the allegation in the complaint, an enterprise engaged in interstate commerce within the meaning of the FLSA in that the entity (i) has had employees engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce, and handle, sell or otherwise work on goods or material that have been moved in or produced for commerce by any person: and (ii) has had an annual gross volume of sales of not less than \$500,000.00.
39. On information and belief, LAVIANA, INC. D/B/A MAMA'S EMPANADAS is, at present and has been at all times relevant to the allegation in the complaint, an enterprise engaged in interstate commerce within the meaning of the FLSA in that the entity (i) has had employees engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce, and handle, sell or otherwise work on goods or material that have been moved in or produced for commerce by any person: and (ii) has had an annual gross volume of sales of not less than \$500,000.00.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

40. Plaintiff MARIA BEATRIZ CONDO residing at 91-16 43rd Avenue, Elmhurst, New York 11368, was employed from in or around 2004 until in or around July 2016 by Defendants at the following MAMA'S EMPANADAS locations: 85-05 Northern Boulevard, Jackson Heights, New York 11372; 32-41 Steinway Street, Astoria, New York 11103; and 42-18 Greenpoint Avenue, Sunnyside, New York 11104.
41. During Plaintiff MARIA BEATRIZ CONDO'S employment by Defendants at the above MAMA'S EMPANADAS locations, Plaintiff's primary duties were as a food preparer, and performing other miscellaneous duties from in or around 2004 until in or around July 2016.
42. Plaintiff MARIA BEATRIZ CONDO was paid by Defendants approximately \$11.50 per hour from in or around 2011 until in or around 2014, approximately \$12.00 per hour from in or around January 2015 until in or around December 2015, and

approximately \$13.00 per hour from in or around January 2016 until in or around July 2016.

43. Although Plaintiff MARIA BEATRIZ CONDO worked approximately eighty-four (84) hours or more per week during his employment by Defendants from in or around 2004 until in or around July 2016, Defendants did not pay Plaintiff time and a half (1.5) for hours worked over forty (40), a blatant violation of the overtime provisions contained in the FLSA and NYLL.
44. Upon information and belief, Defendants willfully failed to post notices of the minimum wage and overtime wage requirements in a conspicuous place at the location of their employment as required by both the NYLL and the FLSA.
45. Upon information and belief, Defendants willfully failed to keep payroll records as required by both NYLL and the FLSA.
46. As a result of these violations of Federal and New York State labor laws, Plaintiffs seek compensatory damages and liquidated damages in an amount exceeding \$100,000.00. Plaintiff also seeks interest, attorneys' fees, costs, and all other legal and equitable remedies this Court deems appropriate.

COLLECTIVE ACTION ALLEGATIONS

47. Plaintiff bring this action on behalf of herself and other employees similarly situated as authorized under the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 216(b). The employees similarly situated are the collective class.
48. Collective Class: All persons who are or have been employed by the Defendants at the following MAMA'S EMPANADAS locations: 85-05 Northern Boulevard, Jackson Heights, New York 11372; 32-41 Steinway Street, Astoria, New York 11103; and 42-18 Greenpoint Avenue, Sunnyside, New York 11104, as food preparers or other similarly titled personnel with substantially similar job requirements and pay provisions, who were performing the same sort of functions for Defendants, other than the executive and management positions, who have been subject to Defendants' common practices, policies, programs, procedures, protocols and plans including willfully failing and refusing to pay required overtime wage compensation.

49. Upon information and belief, Defendants employed between 25 and 35 employees within the past three years subjected to similar payment structures.
50. Upon information and belief, Defendants suffered and permitted Plaintiff and the Collective Class to work more than forty hours per week without appropriate overtime compensation.
51. Defendants' unlawful conduct has been widespread, repeated, and consistent.
52. Upon information and belief, Defendant had knowledge that Plaintiff and the Collective Class performed work requiring overtime pay.
53. Defendants' conduct as set forth in this Complaint, was willful and in bad faith, and has caused significant damages to Plaintiff and the Collective Class.
54. Defendants are liable under the FLSA for failing to properly compensate Plaintiff and the Collective Class, and as such, notice should be sent to the Collective Class. There are numerous similarly situated current and former employees of Defendants who have been denied overtime pay in violation of the FLSA and NYLL, who would benefit from the issuance of a Court-supervised notice of the present lawsuit, and the opportunity to join the present lawsuit. Those similarly situated employees are known to Defendants and are readily identifiable through Defendants' records.
55. The questions of law and fact common to the putative class predominate over any questions affecting only individual members.
56. The claims of Plaintiff are typical of the claims of the putative class.
57. Plaintiff and his counsel will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the putative class.
58. A collective action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

Overtime Wages Under The Fair Labor Standards Act

59. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference all allegations in all preceding paragraphs.
60. Plaintiff has consented in writing to be a party to this action, pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §216(b).

61. At all times relevant to this action, Plaintiff was engaged in commerce or the production of goods for commerce within the meaning of 29 U.S.C. §§206(a) and 207(a).
62. At all times relevant to this action, Defendants were employers engaged in commerce or the production of goods for commerce within the meaning of 29 U.S.C. §§206(a) and 207(a).
63. Defendants willfully failed to pay Plaintiff overtime wages for hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours per week at a wage rate of one and a half (1.5) times the regular wage, to which Plaintiff was entitled under 29 U.S.C. §§206(a) in violation of 29 U.S.C. §207(a)(1).
64. Defendants' violations of the FLSA as described in this Complaint have been willful and intentional. Defendants have not made a good effort to comply with the FLSA with respect to the compensation of the Plaintiff.
65. Due to Defendants' FLSA violations, Plaintiff is entitled to recover from Defendants, jointly and severally, his unpaid wages and an equal amount in the form of liquidated damages, as well as reasonable attorneys fees and costs of the action, including interest, pursuant to the FLSA, specifically 29 U.S.C. §216(b).

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

Overtime Wages Under New York Labor Law

66. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference all allegations in all preceding paragraphs.
67. At all times relevant to this action, Plaintiff was employed by Defendants within the meaning of New York Labor Law §§2 and 651.
68. Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff overtime wages for hours worked in excess of forty hours per week at a wage rate of one and a half (1.5) times the regular wage to which Plaintiff was entitled under New York Labor Law §652, in violation of 12 N.Y.C.R.R. 137-1.3.
69. Due to Defendants' New York Labor Law violations, Plaintiff is entitled to recover from Defendants, jointly and severally, his unpaid overtime wages and an amount equal to his unpaid overtime wages in the form of liquidated damages, as well as

reasonable attorneys' fees and costs of the action, including interest in accordance with NY Labor Law §198(1-a).

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

Violation of the Notice and Recordkeeping Requirements of the New York Labor Law

70. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference all allegations in all preceding paragraphs.
71. Defendants failed to provide Plaintiff with a written notice, in English and in Spanish (Plaintiff's primary language), of his rate of pay, regular pay day, and such other information as required by NYLL §195(1).
72. Defendants are liable to Plaintiff in the amount of \$5,000.00 each, together with costs and attorneys' fees.

FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Violation of the Wage Statement Requirements of the New York Labor Law

73. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate by reference all allegations in all preceding paragraphs.
74. Defendants failed to provide Plaintiffs with wage statements upon each payment of wages, as required by NYLL §195(3)
75. Defendants are liable to Plaintiffs in the amount of \$5,000.00 each, together with costs and attorneys' fees.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

Wherefore, Plaintiffs respectfully request that judgment be granted:

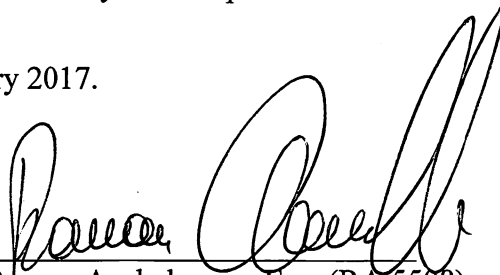
- a. Declaring Defendants' conduct complained herein to be in violation of the Plaintiffs' rights under the FLSA, the New York Labor Law, and its regulations;
- b. Awarding Plaintiff unpaid overtime wages;
- c. Awarding Plaintiff liquidated damages pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §216 and New York Labor Law §§198(1-a), 663(1);
- d. Awarding Plaintiff prejudgment and post-judgment interest;
- e. Awarding Plaintiff the costs of this action together with reasonable attorneys' fees; and

f. Awarding such and further relief as this court deems necessary and proper.

DEMAND FOR TRIAL BY JURY

Pursuant to Rule 38(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Plaintiff demands a trial by jury on all questions of fact raised by the complaint.

Dated: This 4th day of January 2017.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roman Avshalumov", is written over a horizontal line.

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